



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Date: July 7, 2010
To: Principals, Superintendents, Educators
From: Commissioner Armando Vilaseca
Re: Organization of the Department and Content-level Specialists

Vermont State Board of Education Transformation goals require a new emphasis on the part of Department of Education staff that models the tenets of transformation, supports the strategies and goals defined, and positions the department to increase support for schools in ultimately improving outcomes for all Vermont learners. The structure we have defined is intentionally focused on mobilizing all of our staff to support schools in improving instruction and learning outcomes for all students.

Over the past 18 months, we have dealt with the harsh realities of budget cuts, layoffs and retirements, which have created significant changes in the number of employees we have at the department. Our staffing has been reduced by 20 percent in this period of time, and our numbers continue to fluctuate. In order to focus on the priorities of the State Board of Education, we have made changes to the duties of some of our content specialists with whom the field and our partners have had regular interaction.

We continue to have content-specific specialists in the areas of special education, math, English language arts, English Language Learners and science as part of the statewide assessment system. We have been fortunate to have in recent years been staffed with experts in the areas of social studies, gifted and talented education, physical education, driver education, foreign language, school nurses, arts and music. These employees have been reassigned as members of our Integrated Support for Learning team as school support coordinators. Their expertise is now integrated within our statewide system of school support. They will not be able to dedicate the same level of attention within their content areas that they have in the past.

What follows is a brief description of the Transformation and Innovation Divisions of the department. The Administrative functions of the department remain.

Integrated Support for Learning Division: Content, grade level, special education, Educational Support System, special populations and programs, safe schools and school support consultants work together to create integrated teams of consultants with expertise in supporting schools to implement evidence based practices, school-wide improvement models, and prevention models to improve instruction and learning for every child in Vermont.

General Supervision and Monitoring Division: We will build capacity to provide proactive, coherent oversight to schools and supervisory unions by bringing monitoring and regulatory oversight teams for many of our federal programs together in one division to create a comprehensive approach to monitoring for federal and state regulatory compliance.

Educator Quality Division: The Educator Quality Division will focus on strengthening connections between educator standards development and teacher preparation programs, increase alternate pathways to licensure and reciprocity with New England states, and develop regional and state capacity for providing high quality educator and leadership professional learning programs.

Research, Standards and Assessment Division: Research, Standards and Assessment team will focus on an effective implementation plan for engaging educators in the field in and facilitating all schools adopting and implementing the K-12 common core standards and accompanying assessments. This team will maintain the NECAP and NAEP, ACCESS and Alternate Assessment systems concurrently during the transition to an assessment of the Common Core Standards. Additionally, this team will be engaged with other divisions to analyze the effectiveness of instructional practices and implement current and future research findings.

Attached is an organizational chart that includes all Vermont Department of Education employees, for your reference. As always, the main phone number at the department is (802) 828-3135. Our Web site is <http://education.vermont.gov/>.

Main numbers for our teams are:

Commissioner's Office: (802) 828-3135

Legal Staff: (802) 828-3136

Educator Quality: (802) 828-2445

General Supervision & Monitoring: (802) 828-3150

Integrated Support for Learning (Pk-Middle): (802) 828-5118

Integrated Support for Learning (Secondary & Adult): (802) 828-3103

Research, Standards & Assessment: (802) 828-2756

Finance & Administration: (802) 828-0481

Information Technology: (802) 828-3777

We look forward to continuing our work with all of you on behalf of Vermont students. Thank you for your support and understanding.





